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Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 06947 220614 Z

16
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 IO-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

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R 220425 Z APR 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0546
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 6947

E. O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI MOPS CB VS
SUBJECT: VC/ NVA REGIMENTAL SIZE TROOP MOVEMENT

FOL TEL SENT ACTION PRIORITY SAIGON PHNOM PENH USDAO SAIGON
FROM CAN THO DTD 21, APRIL 73 RPTD TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L CAN THO 0215

1. MGEN NGHI, IV CORPS COMMANDER, TOLD ME APRIL 20 THAT ARVN RADIO MONITORING SOURCES HAD PICKED UP MOVEMENT STARTING A FEW DAYS AGO OF THE E-1 AND THE E-3 REGIMENTS WEST OUT OF DINH TUONG PROVINCE TOWARD THE KIEN TUONG- KIEN PHONG- CAMBODIAN BORDER. NGHP SAID THAT A FIFTH NVA DIVISION LIGHT COMMAND POST HAD ALSO MOVED INTO KIEN TUONG. HE INTERPRETED THE OBJECTIVE AS CONSOLIDATING VC/ NVA CONTROL ALONG THE CAMBODIAN BORDER.

2. AN EQUALLY LIKELY OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO REINFORCE THE NVA 9 TH DIVISION AND INCREASE PRESSURE AGAINST THE ARVN 9 TH DIVISION FORCES IN HONG NGU DISTRICT OF KIEN PHONG PROVINCE. THE E-1 AND PARTICULARLY THE E-3 REGIMENTS WERE BADLY BATTERED DURING THE SPRING 1972 OFFENSIVE, AND HAVE STAYED IN CAI LAY DISTRICT OF DINH TUONG SINCE JULY 1972. AS OF LATE MARCH, THEIR ESTIMATED BATTALION STRENGTH RANGED BETWEEN 110 AND 125 MEN.

3. NGHI TOOK THE OCCASION TO FURTHER POINT OUT THAT THE VC/ NVA
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WERE NOT RESPECTING THE PARIS AGREEMENTS. HE SAID HE LOOKED FORWARD TO TACKLING THE E-1 AND E-3 REGIMENTS IN THEIR DESTINED LOCATIONS BECAUSE THEY WOULD BE MUCH EASIER TARGETS THERE THAN IN DINH TUONG Z SE AREA 407. HE POINTED OUT THAT HE HAD OPERATED

IN CAMBODIA BEFORE, AND REITERATED HIS DESIRE TO RANGE AT LEAST TEN KILOMETERS BEYOND THE BORDER.
BARNES UNQUOTE
BUNKER

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a
*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

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